# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2286
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
OPENING OF NEW POST OFFICES AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the number of post offices and telegraph offices in the rural areas of the country including the Basirhat Sub-division in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal are much less than required causing great difficulties of rural population;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any step to open new post offices and telegraph offices to improve the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) Post Office − Out of a total network of 1,55,035 Post Offices (as on 31.3.2008), 1,39,173 are functioning in rural areas including 196 post offices in the Basirhat sub-division in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal.

Opening of post offices is an ongoing exercise which is regulated through the prescribed norms of population, distance and income. The Department ensures facility of regular delivery of mail, collection of letters from Letter Boxes and selling of stamps/stationery at the doorsteps of customers in every village where there is no post office. During the 11th Plan it is also proposed to open 3000 new post offices in rural areas subject to availability of plan support.

Telegraph Office−There are sufficient number of Telegraph Offices in the country including rural areas and the traffic in existing Telegraph Offices is very low. There is one combined post office at Basirhat which caters to the telegraph needs of the area. Telegraph workload at Basirhat combined office is extremely less i.e. 5 telegrams per month.